

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 9, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 6 is hereby amended; Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10, 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,275,061 B1 to Tomita in view of U.S. Patent 4,129,804 B1 to Weisbrod et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,448,952 to Toyoda. Claims 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita in view of Weisbrod and Tododa and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,883,609 to Asada et al. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita in view of U.S. Patent RE37,847 to Henley et al and Toyoda.

Applicant amends claims 1, 8, 12 , and 15 to recite features of the invention believed inherent in the original claims. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. None of the cited references including Tomita, Weisbrod, Toyoda, Asada, and Henley, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention as recited in the amended claims.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

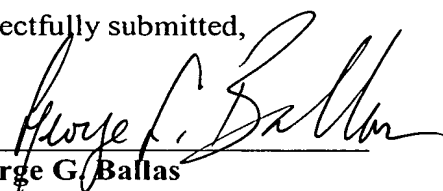
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: February 9, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By


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